

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging lines 30-31 on page 2 and lines 1-2 on page 3 of the filed application with the following amended paragraph:

In broad terms, a first aspect of the invention may be said to be an apparatus for acquiring, holding and releasing an article having a planar surface, the apparatus including at least a carrier assembly having a chamber, a resilient membrane which closes one side of the chamber, and a perforated plate having a pair of opposite substantially planar faces and a plurality of through holes extending between the faces, wherein a first one of the faces has a plurality of grooves each of which interconnect a respective pair of the through holes, wherein the perforated plate is located in the chamber with the second face facing the inner face of the membrane, the plate is arranged for limited movement substantially perpendicular to the second face of the plate between a first configuration, in which the second face of the plate is substantially in contact with the inner face of the membrane, and a second configuration, in which the first face of the plate is substantially in contact with a planar inner wall of the chamber, said inner chamber wall has an orifice by which a fluid pressure lower than that external to the chamber may be selectively applied to the chamber, and the orifice in the inner chamber wall is in at least indirect fluid pressure communication with the grooves and through holes in the perforated plate when the plate is in the second configuration.

Please delete the paragraph bridging lines 5-17 on page 4 of the filed application.